



New Hampshire
Coastal Program

The Rip Tide



The e-newsletter of the New Hampshire Coastal Program

September 2007

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NEWS



[NHCP Announces Competitive Grant Awardees](#)

[Strafford, Lee and Brentwood Proposals Selected for National List to Help Protect Land](#)

[Ask Me About the Coast Campaign Begins](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[NHCP Turns 25](#)

[Great Bay Siltation Commission Established](#)

[Tidal Energy Commission Established](#)

[Coastal Volunteer Biological Assessment Program Begins](#)

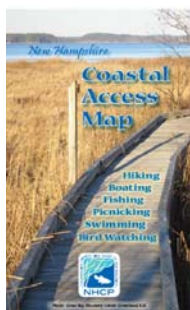
[Blue Ocean Society and Great Bay Stewards Receive Visionary Awards](#)

[Grant Opportunities Available](#)

[Calendar of Events Available on Website](#)



NEW PUBLICATIONS & PLANNING TOOLS



[Coastal Public Access Map, boating and other access info](#)

[Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast: Science, Impacts and Solutions, report detailing climate change scenarios and solutions](#)

[Innovative Stormwater BMP Inventory for New England, online database](#)

[Gulf of Maine Times, educational newspaper on the Gulf of Maine](#)

NEWS

■ NHCP Announces Competitive Grant Awardees ■



Blue Ocean Society staff provides educational programming at schools in the coastal zone with NHCP funding assistance.

NHCP funded five grant applications for a total of \$109,477 for fiscal year's 2008 competitive grant round. NHCP received a total of ten applications and \$329,513 in requested funds.

The grantees are: Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, Cocheco River Watershed Coalition, Great Bay Coast Watch, The Gundalow Company, and the town of Hampton. In addition, each year NHCP sets aside additional grant funding for the Rockingham and Strafford Planning Commissions and the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition to support local technical planning assistance to the 17 coastal zone municipalities.

Through federal funding, NHCP enables projects that address priorities in coastal management, including water quality protection, coastal wetlands restoration and preservation, and public access. Matching grants are offered annually on a competitive basis to eligible applicants, like coastal communities, schools and nonprofit groups.

Matching grant funds are available to NHCP through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. The amount of money NHCP can pass-through to its grant program depends on how much money is allocated at the federal level to NOAA. In recent years federal funding has decreased by nearly 30 percent while program costs have risen, resulting in less money for the grant program.

Grantee Project Descriptions

The Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation will coordinate cleanups and marine debris monitoring with a focus on adding new Adopt-a-Beach cleanup sites in Great Bay, Little Bay and along tidal tributaries. In addition, Blue Ocean will continue its educational programs at schools, beaches, marinas and onboard local sightseeing vessels, as well as coordinate the 2008 International Coastal Cleanup Day in New Hampshire.

The Cocheco River Watershed Coalition (CRWC) will implement three new water quality monitoring projects in the Cocheco River Watershed:

- *Isinglass River Monitoring*—CRWC will expand its chemical and biological monitoring program to include three tributaries of the Isinglass and will provide data for local decision-making and planning.
- *Rollinsford Monitoring Team*—CRWC will coordinate a pilot monitoring effort on the health of Rollinsford's streams.
- *Bacteria Loading in Cocheco River Tributaries*—CRWC will conduct additional bacteria sampling and stream surveys to help implement the Watershed Restoration and Implementation Plan for the Cocheco River Watershed.

The Great Bay Coast Watch will conduct volunteer monitoring at 16 sites around Great Bay. Volunteers will measure salinity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, fecal coliform levels, and other water quality parameters. Volunteers will also track phytoplankton blooms at sites in Hampton, Rye and New Castle.

The Gundalow Company will conduct a series of lectures, presentations, workshops, events and year-round educational programs for the public onboard the replica gundalow *Captain Edward Adams*, and in local schools. A new program entitled “Junior Stewards on the Gundalow” will target at-risk youth and other summer youth groups such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, New Heights Teen Center and day camps in the region.

The town of Hampton will use NHCP funds to establish a nature trail with signage on a 12-acre land parcel adjacent to Ice Pond, which the town is in the process of acquiring. The town will place a conservation easement on this parcel to ensure its protection in perpetuity. The project also includes a preliminary engineering study of the dam located on the pond to assess any needed repairs.

For more information on the pass-through grant program visit www.des.nh.gov/coastal/Grants/index.htm.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ **Strafford, Lee and Brentwood Proposals Selected for National List to Help Protect Land** ■

In summer 2007, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released its prioritized list of national competitively-selected projects under the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP). The federal rankings list the town of Strafford's Isinglass project as first out of 44 conservation projects in the nation. In addition, the town of Lee's Great Bay project ranked 11th and Brentwood's Exeter River project 14th. The fiscal year 2008 budget will determine the final amount allocated to CELCP and how many projects on the national priority list will be funded. The President's budget requested \$15 million for CELCP, however both the House and Senate have increased the funding level. The budget will most likely be finalized in November.

As undeveloped land becomes increasingly rare, Seacoast towns look to the federal CELCP to fund local land protection efforts. CELCP, a tremendously competitive program where states vie for space on the national priority list, aims to protect coastal lands with significant ecological value. CELCP requires a one to one match from all applicants.

Under CELCP, each of the 34 states with coastal management programs can submit up to three proposals for consideration to NOAA at no more than \$3 million apiece. Although CELCP gives priority to land with significant ecological value, other factors such as threat of immediate development, and aesthetic, recreation and historic values are considered.



The federal CELCP program gives priority to land with significant ecological value.

The Coastal Program received five project proposals, requesting CELCP funding totaling \$12.26 million to protect 2,965 acres of land. The three projects chosen for submittal to NOAA for consideration were:

- The Isinglass River conservation corridor in Strafford, submitted by the town of Strafford with the Trust for the Public Land for \$1.3 million, would protect 287 acres, including significant river frontage. Of the hundreds of waterways in New Hampshire, only 14 rivers are officially recognized as outstanding natural and cultural resources. The 18-mile Isinglass River, which runs through the rapidly developing southeastern portion of the state, is one of these select few. The 287 acres in Strafford are located within a 1,500-acre block of relatively intact forest. This is important habitat for a variety of wildlife species, and it is a popular recreational destination for fishing, hiking and boating. Prior to the Trust for the Public Land securing an option to buy the property in January 2007, the land was approved for a 58-unit housing development.
- The Great Bay drainage project, submitted by the town of Lee for \$2.82 million would protect 570 acres of sensitive watershed in Lee. The proposal would protect 13 different properties that are in the Great Bay Drainage area. Most of the properties have frontage on either the Lamprey or Oyster Rivers or their tributaries, with total river and brook frontage of 15,844 feet. In addition to the ecological values, they have excellent historic, recreation and aesthetic values.
- The Exeter River protection project, submitted by the town of Brentwood for \$2.43 million, would protect 367 acres of land and help complete a protected greenway along the Exeter River. Over three miles of river frontage will be protected as part of this proposal. The project will contribute to a conservation effort that protects diverse habitat areas within the Great Bay Estuary. This project also has the potential for the development of a canoe launch and parking lot to improve public access to the river.

Although CELCP places emphasis on the ecological significance of the land, successful projects must also demonstrate that landowners are willing to participate and that the projects are ready to roll. Lastly, proposals showing tie-in to state, regional and local plans get more weight.

In addition to adherence to local plans, the CELCP process requires states to develop a CELCP plan in order to be eligible to nominate projects. *The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds*, released in August 2006, was initiated by the Coastal Program and New Hampshire Estuaries Project to help fulfill that requirement, and it served as the foundation of the state's CELCP plan. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, The Nature Conservancy, and the Strafford and Rockingham regional planning commissions were all major players in the development of that plan. Currently New Hampshire's CELCP plan is pending final review and approval from NOAA.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Ask Me About the Coast Campaign Begins ■



Do you care about the coast and wish others would approach you so you could talk about it? Looking for a conversation starter to discuss coastal issues in your neighborhood? Want to impress your family with some gems of knowledge about where you live? Search no farther ...

NHCP recently started the Ask Me About the Coast Campaign, an opportunity for folks to talk to one another on current coastal topics. The campaign emphasizes interpersonal communication to educate and change behavior in people living and recreating in the coastal watershed. Those wanting to help

with the campaign receive a T-shirt that says, “Ask Me About the Coast” on the back, prompting others to engage him or her in conversation, and a laminated card with talking points on New Hampshire’s coast and coastal watershed to help get the conversation started.

The idea is to convey:

- Yes, New Hampshire has a coast!
- Our coastal resources are exceptional!
- We can all do something to keep it that way.

The campaign also has the flexibility for the presenter to add his or her own talking points on an issue of specific importance to his or her organization or knowledge. So, what are the talking points? Read on to find out.

Points of Interest

A Sense of the Sea

We have the biggest little coast! New Hampshire’s coastline along the Atlantic Shore is 18 miles long, the smallest in New England. Little known fact: we have about 220 shoreline miles of bays, harbors, and tidal rivers, including Great Bay, an “inland sea,” and Hampton/Seabrook Estuary.

New Hampshire’s offshore waters are home to the endangered fin whale, which is nothing to snuff at: at an average of 70 feet in length, or about 13 adults laid head to feet, it’s the second largest animal on earth!

New Hampshire’s coastal land area drains 990 square miles, including the land area in all or part of 46 New Hampshire towns. Forests, wetlands and other natural areas give us water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, and scenic views. Population growth and land conversion into homes, parking lots and buildings is happening faster here than in other parts of the state. From 1940-2000, the average annual population increase in Rockingham and Strafford Counties was nearly double the state’s overall. And the two counties are projected to add more than 100,000 new residents from 2000-2025. Over the past 36 years in Rockingham and Strafford counties, an average of 2,230 acres of land per year has been converted to a developed condition.

Water quality in Great Bay was improving for many years and is now starting to decline. For instance, nitrogen concentrations increased by 59 percent in the past 25 years; nitrogen increases algae blooms and diminishes habitat for fish and eelgrass.

{Insert your own talking point}

Sources: State of the Estuaries 2006, New Hampshire Estuaries Project; The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire’s Coastal Watersheds, 2006

Actions

Dump No More in the Shore!

D2A2---Don't Dump Anything Anywhere! When outside, keep track of all wrappers, cans and other items; leave nothing behind. Don't dump anything, ever, into a storm drain, including dog poop! What goes down there today, ends up in our water bodies tomorrow, polluting places where we boat, swim and fish. Home owners: maintain your septic system; they can be major polluters when not working correctly.

Be wary of the impervious!

Buildings, houses, driveways, parking lots and roads block the flow of water into the earth, where it would otherwise be absorbed like a sponge. As more development comes, what we do becomes more and more important because the ground is not absorbing the pollution: it's going straight into our waterways! Some actions that help: washing your car on the lawn; landscaping with vegetation, gravel and other porous materials; and limiting your use of fertilizers, or even better, using natural fertilizers, like compost, manure, bone meal or peat.

Get Active!

Volunteer with an area nonprofit: adopt-a-beach, educate others on coastal resources; join a town board; stay informed of local coastal issues going on in your town.

{Insert your own suggested action on how to help our coastal watershed!}

[Back to Cover Page](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ NHCP Turns 25 ■



This year, NHCP celebrates 25 years of bringing together people, talent and resources for the coast. Congratulations to Mary Power, executive secretary, who celebrates her 25th anniversary together with the program. We would also like to congratulate the Gundalow Company, a nonprofit organization raising awareness of history as well as contemporary coastal issues, which also celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of our program, the NHCP has a new logo. We have also released a special anniversary issue of *Tidelines*. Visit our website for more info: www.des.state.nh.us/Coastal.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Great Bay Siltation Commission Established ■

On May 14, 2007 Governor Lynch signed HB 216 (Chapter 31, Laws of 2007) establishing a commission to study the causes, effects and remediation of siltation in the Great Bay Estuary. The commission's duties include, in part, studying the historic and current sources of siltation in the estuary, studying the impacts of siltation upon the aquatic and riparian ecosystem, studying the recreational, social, and commercial uses of estuarine waters, studying methods of minimizing additional siltation, and evaluating the desirability of remediation. The commission is comprised of 21 members, including members of the New Hampshire House of Representatives and Senate, the Department of Environmental Services, the Pease Development Authority – Division of Ports and Harbors, the Fish and Game Department, the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, the University of New Hampshire, the Rockingham Planning Commission, the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, The Nature Conservancy, representatives from conservation commissions from towns in the Great Bay Estuary, representatives of water-related recreational interests, and representatives from water-dependent commercial interests. The commission is required to make an interim report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation on or before November 30, 2008, and make a final report on or before November 30, 2009.

At its inaugural meeting on September 12, 2007 the commission elected Representative Judith Spang as chairperson. The commission will hold monthly meetings that are open to the general public.

Links to the text of HB 216, Chapter 31 commission member and meeting information, and other relevant links are listed on www.des.nh.gov/Coastal/ocean_policy.html.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Tidal Energy Commission Established ■

On June 25, 2007 Governor Lynch signed HB 694 (Chapter 222, Laws of 2007) establishing a commission to study the feasibility of tidal power generation under the Little Bay and General Sullivan Bridges, located in Dover and Newington. The commission's primary duty is to identify and collect technical and sociological data, and investigate the regulatory requirements necessary to determine the feasibility of building a system for tidal power generation under the bridges. The commission is comprised of 21 members, including members of the New Hampshire House of Representatives and Senate, the Department of Environmental Services, the Office of Energy and Planning, the Department of Transportation, the Public Utilities Commission, the Fish and Game Department, the Pease Development Authority – Division of Ports and Harbors, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the New Hampshire Estuaries Project, the city of Dover, the town of Newington, the University of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Commercial Fishermen's Association, the National Marine Fisheries Service, environmental protection and advocacy organizations, and the general public. The commission is required to make an initial report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation on or before November 1, 2007, and make a final report on or before November 1, 2008.

At its inaugural meeting on August 29, 2007 the commission elected co-chairs, Thomas Fargo, representing the city of Dover, and Kenneth Baldwin, representing the University of New Hampshire, as well as a vice chair, Ted Diers, representing the Department of Environmental Services. The commission also selected the Coastal Program as the lead state agency to coordinate the efforts of the commission. The commission will hold monthly meetings that are open to the general public.

Links to the text of HB 694, Chapter 222 commission member and meeting information, and other relevant links are listed on www.des.nh.gov/Coastal/ocean_policy.html.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Coastal Volunteer Biological Assessment Program Begins ■

NHCP kicks off a third season of monitoring coastal watersheds with the Coastal Volunteer Biological Assessment Program (CVBAP). From late August to October, volunteers from local watershed groups collect data from rivers and streams on macroinvertebrates, or living organisms without a backbone that can be seen with the naked eye, such as helgramites, caddisfly larvae and mayfly larvae.

In August, NHCP staff conducted trainings in macroinvertebrate identification and field sampling methods for volunteers from the Cocheco River Watershed Coalition, Isinglass River Local Advisory Committee, Exeter River Local Advisory Committee, and the Oyster River Watershed Association. Field sampling began in September. Volunteers will conduct biological assessments at over 30 sites located on coastal rivers.



Tools of the trade.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Blue Ocean Society and Great Bay Stewards Receive Visionary Awards ■

The Gulf of Maine Visionary Awards are made annually by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment to recognize innovation, creativity and commitment to marine protection by businesses, environmental organizations, or individuals who are making a difference in the health of the Gulf of Maine. The Council makes an award within each of the five Gulf of Maine jurisdictions. This year the Great Bay Stewards and Jen Kennedy and Dianna Schulte of the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation received the visionary award in New Hampshire.

Jen Kennedy and Dianna Schulte are acknowledged for their commitment to ocean health and education, including school and group presentations, presentations aboard local whale watch and sightseeing boats, and tide pool excursions and beach cleanups. Kennedy and Schulte founded the Blue Ocean Society, which also researches local marine life and translates that data to the public.

The Great Bay Stewards receive the award for their dedication to the long-term protection of Great Bay by supporting education, research and lasting stewardship of the estuary, including land protection, fundraising events that support education at the Great Bay Discovery Center, and establishing an undergraduate research program to fund University of New Hampshire students working on projects related to the estuary.

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is a U.S.-Canadian partnership of government and non-government organizations working to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations. The governors and premiers of the five Gulf jurisdictions - Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia - created the Council in 1989 as a regional forum to exchange information and engage in long-term planning.

The awards will be presented by the Governor and Executive Council at their September 19, 2007 meeting, which is hosted by Councilor Beverly Hollingworth at Salem High School.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Grant Opportunities Available ■

Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET)



CICEET makes strategic investments in the development, demonstration, and application of tools to detect, prevent, and reverse the impacts of coastal pollution and habitat degradation to coastal ecosystems and communities.

This request for proposals is open to U.S. scientists and innovators from academia, private industry, and the public sector who seek to develop tools that meet the priority needs of coastal management. Read more about the RFP at www.ciceet.unh.edu/funding/rfp_2008/rfp_about.html.

Mitigating Shoreline Erosion along Sheltered Coasts

This program seeks to support research and outreach that will provide a better understanding of how to use different erosion prevention measures to protect sheltered coastlines from the impacts of rising sea levels and waves generated by extreme weather, as well as to protect, preserve, and restore ecosystem function.

The proposal deadline is 1 p.m. on September 25, 2007.

To read the full RFP, visit www.ciceet.unh.edu/funding/rfp_2008/rfp_erosion.html.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



NOAA Community-based Restoration Program Project Grants

This grant opportunity funds grass-roots marine and coastal habitat restoration projects that will benefit anadromous fish species, commercial and recreational resources, and endangered and threatened species. Funded projects will have strong on-the-ground habitat restoration components that provide educational and social benefits for people and communities, in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources.

Applications are due September 27, 2007.

For more information visit

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/partners_funding/callforprojects.html.

NOAA Marine Debris Program

Community-based Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Grants fund individual grass-roots marine debris prevention and removal projects that benefit coastal habitat like wetlands and coral reefs, as well as fisheries, marine mammals, sea turtles and waterways. Funded projects will have strong on-the-ground habitat components involving the removal of marine debris and derelict fishing gear that will provide educational and social benefits for people and their communities, in addition to long-term ecological habitat improvements for NOAA trust resources.

Applications are due October 31, 2007.

For more information visit

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/partners_funding/callforprojects2.html.

New Hampshire Estuaries Project (NHEP)

Local Grants Program

The NHEP requests project proposals for the 2008 Local Grants Program. This program funds projects that result in achievement or significant progress toward achievement of one or more action plans described in the NHEP Management Plan. An applicant may submit a project proposal for up to \$10,000 of NHEP funds; however a 50 percent match is required, i.e., for each dollar contributed to a project by the NHEP, 50 cents must be provided by the applicant in the form of cash or in-kind services related to the project. All project activities must be completed by December 31, 2008.



Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 1, 2007.

To read the full RFP, visit www.nhep.unh.edu/resources/rfp/local_grants_rfp-nhep-07.pdf.

Gulf of Maine Habitat Council/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership

Habitat Restoration Grants

The Gulf of Maine Council/NOAA Habitat Restoration Partnership is offering grants of up to \$100,000 for habitat restoration projects in the Gulf of Maine watershed.



The grant offering is a multi-year partnership between the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service's Community-based Restoration Program. The purpose of this partnership is to further the council's goal of habitat restoration and to support a strategic approach to marine, coastal and riverine habitat restoration within the Gulf of Maine.

Approximately \$400,000 will be available for the 2007-2008 grants round. Grants will generally range between \$25,000 to \$75,000, with a funding cap of \$100,000.

Deadline for final submission of applications is October 26, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information on habitat restoration in the Gulf of Maine and to access the full RFP, go to restoration.gulfofmaine.org/index.php.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Calendar of Events Available on Website ■

Current events are regularly posted online at www.des.nh.gov/asp/DESCalendar/. Check the calendar of events frequently to find new postings. The following are upcoming events of particular interest to coastal folks:

- [Boat Tours of Great Bay for coastal decision makers, September 19 and 29](#)
- [Salt Marsh Ecology and Conservation Workshop, September 29](#)
- [September 29, National Estuaries Day](#)

[Back to Cover Page](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS & PLANNING TOOLS

■ Coastal Public Access Map ■



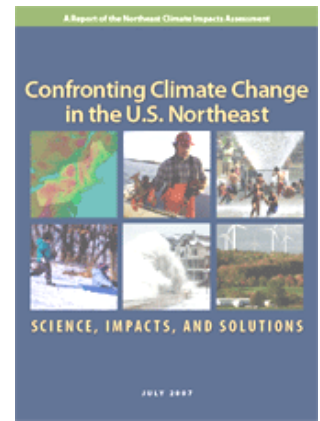
This summer, NHCP released an updated coastal public access map, which provides information on boating and other public access opportunities in the coastal zone. View the map online at www.des.nh.gov/Coastal/Resources/documents/coastalaccessmap_final.pdf. Contact Mary Power at (603) 559-1500 or mpower@des.state.nh.us for hardcopies.

[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast: Science, Impacts and Solutions ■

In July, the Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment (NECIA) released the report *Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast: Science, Impacts, and Solutions*. Detailed and easy to read examples of projected impacts on the Northeast's resources, including marine and coastal resources, make this report a valuable tool in understanding global climate change in our region. The report also includes tips and success stories specific to the Northeast on how to meet the challenges and how others are working towards reducing the impacts.

NECIA is a collaborative effort between the Union of Concerned Scientists and a team of independent experts using state-of-the-art tools to assess how global warming will affect the northeastern United States. Fact sheets are also available for each state, including New Hampshire. The report is available at www.climatechoices.org/ne/resources_ne/nereport.html.



[Back to Cover Page](#)

■ Innovative Stormwater BMP Inventory for New England ■

The Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology-sponsored University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center and Connecticut Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) have launched an interactive database that documents the implementation of innovative stormwater approaches, such as low impact development designs, in New England.

A lack of applied examples often limits the widespread acceptance and implementation of innovative stormwater best management practices. Searchable by state and town, the UNHSC-NEMO Innovative Stormwater Management Inventory is a database of New England sites where innovative stormwater BMPs have been implemented. Database users are welcome to add new examples of innovative BMP implementation and provide suggestions of how to improve this regional resource.

You can access the database at www.erg.unh.edu/lid/index.asp. You can submit an example of innovative BMP implementation through this online submission form: www.erg.unh.edu/lid/lid1.asp.

■ Gulf of Maine Times ■



The *Times* is a triennial newspaper that helps foster appreciation, understanding and preservation of the Gulf of Maine watershed and marine environment. Each issue connects readers with people, science and technology, helping to improve the way the Gulf's environment is monitored and protected. The publication is supported by the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, a U.S.-Canadian partnership of government and non-government organizations working to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations. To read the latest issue of the *Times*, visit www.gulfofmaine.org. To subscribe, visit www.gulfofmaine.org/quicksubscription.php

[Back to Cover Page](#)

About this e-newsletter

The Rip Tide is NHCP's quarterly e-newsletter.

All subscribers' e-mail addresses on this list are kept confidential and are not shared by NHCP.

Contact Cathy Coletti, editor, at (603) 559-0024 or ccoletti@des.state.nh.us with questions or comments.

About NHCP

NHCP is a federally approved coastal program authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act and is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. NHCP strives to maintain a balance between the use and preservation of coastal resources. Through partnerships, funding and science, NHCP works to improve water quality and decision making in 42 coastal watershed communities, supports maritime uses, and restores coastal wetlands.